

# THUNDERSTORM SAFETY



**Thunderstorms affect relatively small areas. Typically they are 15 miles in diameter and last an average of 30 minutes.**

**All storms are dangerous and produce lightning, which kills more people per year than tornadoes.**

**Thunderstorms can also cause:**

- **Flash Flooding**
- **Strong Winds**
- **Hail**
- **Tornadoes**



# **LIGHTNING**

**Occurs with all thunderstorms and averages 93 deaths and 300 injuries each year.**

**Deaths in recent years occurred while people were:**

- Boating**
- Standing Under A Tree**
- Playing Soccer**
- Swimming**
- Riding On A Lawnmower**
- Fishing In A Boat**
- Golfing**
- Talking On The Telephone**
- Mountain Climbing**
- Bike Riding**



## **Flash Flooding:**

- **The #1 thunderstorm killer, nearly 140 deaths each year**
- **Most deaths occur at night and when people become trapped in their automobiles**

## **Straight-Line Winds:**

- **Winds can exceed 100mph**
- **One specific type is the “Downburst” it can cause damage equivalent to a strong tornado and can be extremely dangerous to aviation**

## **Large Hail:**

- **Falls at speeds faster than 100mph**
- **Causes nearly \$1 Billion in crop and property damage annually**
- **Costliest damage was in Denver, CO on July 11, 1990  
\$625 Million in damage**

# **Tornadoes:**

- **Winds can exceed over 200mph**
- **Average of 80 deaths and 1,500 injuries each year**



# THUNDERSTORM SAFETY

- **Move to a sturdy building, do not take shelter in sheds or under isolated trees.**
- **Phone lines & metal pipes can conduct electricity, unplug appliances that are not necessary for weather information and only use the phone for an emergency.**
- **Do Not take a bath or shower.**
- **Turn off the air conditioning. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressor.**
- **Get to higher ground if flash flooding / flooding is occurring.**
- **Once flooding begins, abandon cars and climb to higher ground.**  
**Do Not attempt to drive to safety, remember most flash flood deaths occur in cars.**



# **THUNDERSTORM SAFETY**

- **If outdoors find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles. Make sure the place you choose isn't subject to flooding.**
- **If you're in the woods take shelter under the shorter trees.**
- **If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible & minimize your contact with the ground.**
- **When boating or swimming go to land and find shelter immediately.**



**Remember to take shelter during  
thunderstorms  
and use good sense if you  
see one rolling in  
to your area.  
Be careful and have a safe April.**